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REPORT

CD NO.

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DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 8 Aug 1951

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

USSR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OPERATION DESCRIBED

Aircraft belonging to the aerial cartography unit have the letter "Ф" /"F" for fotos/yemka: photography/ painted on their wings. They also have large glass cupolas situated in the forward part of the fuselage. They are equipped with a sun-shadow compass for keeping the plane on course during a photographic run. This compass, designed by Soviet engineers and mounted in a glass dome overhead, determines the position of the plane in relation to the sun. The pilot is guided by a shadowy line across the face of the compass; the slightest deviation from course causes a deflection of this line. /No mention is made of a gyroscopic compass./

The camera is located in the floor of the cabin. The scale of the photographs is 1:60,000. A flight of one hour resulted in the photographing of 1,500 square kilometers. One of the planes photographed the fields of a kolkhoz for a new land utilization map. The other photographed a mine basin where new mines are to be dug.

The laboratory of the unit is in a nearby village.

Vadim Semenovitch Mel'nikov is the head of the expedition [sic]. N. D. Bogomolov is the senior aerial photographer of the unit.

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L. I. Luk'yanov, recently a pupil of Bogomolov, graduated 3 years ago from an aerial photography school /probably the Moscow School of Aerial Photography, identified in Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 9 July 1950, as being located at Gorokhovskiy pereulok, 4, Moscow/. Last spring Luk'yanov was engaged in photographing the Zhiguley region from the air in order to produce large-scale maps needed by the builders of the Kuybyshev Hydroelectric Center. /Luk'yanov's position in the unit is not given./

A. S. Yegorov and N. N. Potapov are both navigators-aerial photographers. /In the only photograph accompanying the article, Yegorov is pictured seated in one of the glass observation cupolas; what appears to be a metal bar curving across his shoulder and chest has evidently been placed there to prevent an observer from being sucked from the plane should the glass "bubble" burst./

N. I. Kuznetsov and D. K. Surovnev are pilots. Kuznetsov has piloted an aerial photography plane for 17 years.

Bogomolov, Yegorov, and Aleksandr Makarovich Arutyunyants /the latter presumably not connected with this unit/ discovered Pobeda Peak in the Tyan'-Shan' mountains 8 years ago.

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